Reviewer's report

Title: Methodologies used to estimate tobacco-attributable mortality. A review.

Version: 1 Date: 9 April 2007

Reviewer: Prahbat Jha

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a useful methodological overview.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
The key weakness is that the authors don't illustrate any meaningful differences in methods of estimating tobacco deaths. A table that compares lets say the US middle age male deaths via these methods would inform the reader considerably.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
The discussion on genetic epi is weak- tobacco hazards are so large and have changed so rapidly in recent decades in the West that robust measures to document hazards are probably sufficient for public health purposes. No changes in genes can account for such changes.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
No competing interests.